

Egret from Extinction in Egypt? "In 1911, when the last little colony of Egrets was in danger of being wiped out by plume hunters, guards were placed around the one last nesting-place, and Major Flower organised a great series of village meetings, where the following lesson was well rubbed in: 'Egrets kill the cotton worm that ruins your crops. The plume hunters kill the Egret for gain and take the money out of the country. See to it.' The appeal succeeded.

"From a few captive Egrets in the Zoological Gardens fifteen Egrets were hatched in 1913. Major Flower estimates that these fifteen have now 5000 living descendants, and the fifteen ancestor birds are still alive and breeding. The one protected colony has grown to 200,000, and the birds have gone back to the old nesting-places from which the plume hunters exterminated their forebears. The most wonderful part is this: The 200,000 birds have saved the Egyptian cultivators £2,000,000 in the past season alone by keeping down the cotton worm. Major Flower pointed out that it would seem as if each bird were worth £10 a year to Egypt. They work across a field hunting down the pest."

*

*

*

Is Albinoism Connected with Sex Characteristic?—A specimen of the Small Yellow-tailed Tit-Warbler (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) was recently obtained by me at Parwan, Victoria. Its plumage first attracted attention when the bird was seen feeding on insects on the ground with several other members of its own species. Its coloration indicated that its plumage was metamorphosing to a phase of albinoism. When dissected, two experts were unable after minute examination to sex the bird. It would be interesting to know whether there is anything abnormal with the sex organs in cases of albinoism in birds to prove whether this alteration in the colour of the plumage is a perverted sex characteristic, and that nature hoists the danger signal in the altered coloration of the plumage.—A. H. E. MATTINGLEY, C.M.Z.S., Melbourne.

*

*

*

Birds Seen on the Sydney-Melbourne Train Route.—Having had the opportunity of travelling this route fairly often, I think that there has been, during the last year or so, a very distinct increase of the birds seen from the train. In one hour's run on the southern side of Goulburn, I noted the following species from one side of the train only, covering about 35 miles of country:—Magpies were particularly numerous, and well distributed right along the line between the two capitals. White-fronted Heron (*Notophox nova-hollandia*) (9); Nankeen Kestrel (*Cerchneis cenchroides*) (5); Rose-breasted Cockatoo (*Cacatua roseicapilla*) (This species was fairly numerous fur-